

Wycombe only just fail in thrill-packed cup-tie

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1 KETTERING 2

THE biggest crowd of the season packed Loakes Park today for the FA Cup clash between Wycombe Wanderers and the Southern League professionals, Kettering Town. Wycombe put up a grand second half performance, the winning goal for the visitors being scored against the run of play.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; D. Worley, Atkins; Thomas, Fisher, Beck; Bates, L. Worley, S. Bressington, Holmes, Hyde.

Kettering Town: Smethurst; Marston, Harding; Froggatt, Quigley, Smith; Morrow, Shaw, McGill, Pearson, Walden.

Referee: S. Yeates (Bristol).

Wycombe were the first to attack, and Smethurst did well to save from Holmes. Then Morrow got away on the right and from his centre McGill's prompt drive sped just wide.

Kettering looked dangerous with fast, thrustful raids in which Morrow and McGill were prominent, and twice Brown saved well from Smith and McGill.

Once Fisher passed back under pressure, and McGill almost ran the ball in.

It was nearly all Kettering, but in one of the rare Wycombe attacks Hyde forced a corner, and from his kick Bressington almost scored, his shot being diverted at the last minute.

CHANCE SEIZED

Wycombe had more of the play when they settled down and Holmes almost found the mark with a neat header from a right wing pass. Then Bressington got away on his own but Smethurst ran out to clear.

After half an hour Kettering took the lead when outside right MORROW seized on the ball after a corner kick on the left and found the corner of the net with Brown out of position.

A little later Smith almost made it two with a long range drive which went just wide.

Wycombe were confined to spasmodic attacks and often only Bressington was up-field to make the most of rough passes. But Holmes went very near once with a smart header from Hyde's pass.

Half-time: Wycombe W. 0. Kettering Tn. 1.

Wycombe were again under siege in the second half as Froggatt's men kept up the pressure. But Kettering's finishing was erratic, and Brown showed confident form in goal.

Bates and Worley were more active on the Wycombe right wing, but marksmanship was kept at long range. First Beck and then Thomas tested Smethurst with long shots.

As Wycombe stepped up the pace the Kettering goal came under fierce pressure for the first time and 15 minutes after the interval after good work on the left wing, THOMAS equalised with a 25-yard drive which found the mark through a crowd of players.

Kettering flashed back to the attack and Wycombe were lucky to survive when Atkins blocked three hard shots in rapid succession on the goal line.

AHEAD AGAIN

Ten minutes before the end Morrow got away on the right for Kettering and from his accurate centre WALDEN headed past Brown to restore Kettering's lead against the run of play.

But Wycombe still hit back gallantly, and thrill followed thrill in the closing stages.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE W.	1
KETTERING T.	2

WYCOMBE 1, KETTERING 2

Kettering player-manager Jack Froggatt summed up Wycombe's grand fight like this: "Phew. What a fright they gave us . . . touch and go to the last." Well said, Jack. Experienced Kettering made "heavy work" of it in a second half when the fire and spirit of the Isthmian league amateurs had the fans thinking in terms of victory.

Wycombe, surely, would have made it but for a 20th minute injury to 16-year-old left-winger, Hyde. He went off for a spell after injuring his leg and was at half pace for the rest of the game.